

T/V Command Oil Spill Natural Resource Trustees

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

California Department of Fish and Game

California State Lands Commission

California Department of Parks and Recreation

BACKGROUND

The Command oil spill involved a tanker that originally had a minor accident at the port in San Francisco. Requiring repairs, it departed San Francisco with no cargo, on its way to dry dock in Panama. Around midnight, and only 15 miles off the San Mateo County coast, it began draining the previously damaged tank, discharging oil directly over the side of the vessel.



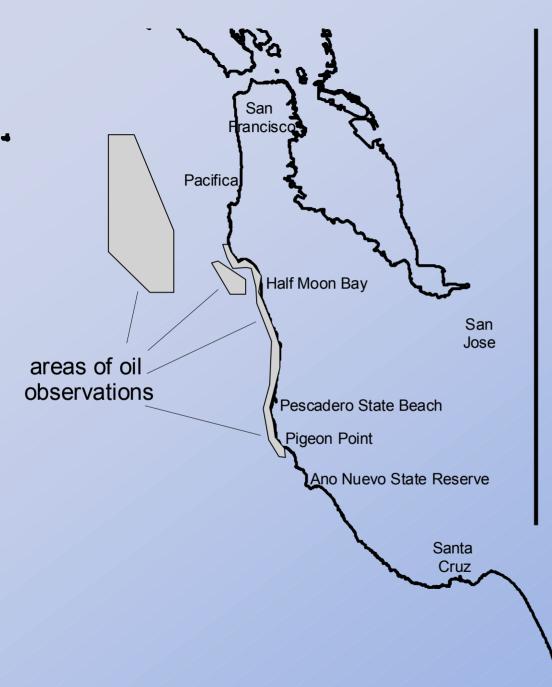
Further tank washing was evidenced several days later when U.S. military aircraft followed an oily sheen trail to the vessel off the Guatemala coast, where it was intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Analysis of oil samples from the small bay spill matched the Command to the mystery spill off the San Mateo Co. coast.



The successful prosecution of the *Command* vessel operator and owners and the recovery of natural resource damages mark the first time a tanker vessel has been caught illegally dumping oil in California.





T/V Command Oil Spill September 29-30, 1998

Estimated at 3,000 gallons of IBF 380 (Fuel Oil No. 6)

Oil sat offshore for 4+ days before any came ashore

Spill Response and Injury Assessment

On-water and Shoreline Cleanup

oiled wildlife recovery

Wildlife Surveys

aerial

boat

shoreline

Injury Assessment
bird mortality
human recreational uses



Natural Resource Injuries

Common Murres and other Seabirds:

Estimated over 1,500 birds killed Including Threatened and Endangered Species:

Marbled Murrelets Brown Pelicans

Shoreline Habitats:

Many miles of beaches lightly oiled



Human Recreational Use:

Estimated \$113,386 in lost beach use values

T/V Command Civil Settlement

TOTAL: \$5,518,000

Includes:

Fines

Penalties

Response Costs

Natural Resource and Other Damages

Funds currently available for restoration: \$4,300,000



Restoration Planning Process

- 1) Formation of Trustee Council
 - 2) Scoping Phase and Public Input

- 3) Restoration Plan Development
 - 4) Public Input
 - 5) Finalizing and Implementing Plan

Project Selection Criteria

- Nexus to Injured Resources
- Feasibility
- No Duplicate or Replacement Funding
- Legality
- Likelihood of Success
- Cost Effectiveness
- Multiple Resource Benefits
- Duration of Benefits
- Public Health and Safety
- Likelihood of Adverse Impacts
- Opportunities for Collaboration









Restoration Categories





Potential Restoration Projects

- Disturbance Reduction at Seabird Colonies
- Brown Pelican Roost Site Enhancement
- Marbled Murrelet Habitat Acquisition
- Human Use and Shoreline Habitat Projects















Next Steps:

- Receive Written Public Comments (by June 6)
- Prepare Draft Restoration Plan